



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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For Immediate Release:
March 2, 2010
Release No. CT 2010-027

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Connecticut Dept. of Transportation seek Corps permit to place fill to upgrade runway safety areas at Groton-New London Airport

CONCORD, Mass. – The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct work in waters of the United States in conjunction with upgrading runway safety areas at the Groton-New London Airport in Groton, Conn.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) proposes to discharge dredged and fill materials below the high tide line in tidal wetland areas associated with Baker Cove and the Poquonock River in Groton. The work in wetlands is associated with the proposed upgrade to the Runway Safety Areas (RSA) for Runways 5 and 23 at Groton-New London Airport to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design standards for RSAs. The project would use a technology called an Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS).

The proposed activity will take place within the ends of Runway 5-23 at the Groton-New London Airport. The two sites where the development activities are proposed are bordered to the east by the Poquonock River and its associated wetlands. Proposed regulated activities include filling and regrading of a portion of abutting tidal wetlands. The proposed activity will affect approximately 0.47 acres of tidal wetlands and involves work below the High Tide Line. The wetland loss will be mitigated by the creation of 2.54 acres of tidal wetland. The proposed mitigation area is located on the banks of the Poquonock River in the vicinity of Runway 23.

The application for the federal permit was filed with the Corps of Engineers in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the discharge or fill of material in United States waters, including wetlands; and with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, which provides for federal regulation of any work in, or affecting navigable waters of the United States. The public notice can be viewed on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting and then weekly public notices.

Public comments on the Corps permit review (File # NAE-2007-3002) should be forwarded no later than April 2, 2010 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division (ATTN: Susan Lee), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751. Additional information is available from Permit Project Manager Susan Lee at 978-318-8494 or toll free 800-343-4789 or 800-362-4367 (if calling from within Massachusetts) or by email to: susan.k.lee@usace.army.mil.

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